medium projects are functioning in the private sector.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir. The Government is encouraging small scale sector through a variety of steps like reservation of 821 items for exclusive manufacture in small scale sector, price preference in Government purchase, excise exemption, provision of infrastructure through a Scheme of Integrated Infrastructure Development (IID), provision of transport subsidy in backward area, priority lending by banks etc.

Financial viability of infrastructure sector projects

2355. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per recent reports, it was stated that the lack of financial viability of projects in the infrastructure sector was due to lack of a proper approach on regulatory and policy frame work; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) The Expert Group on commercialisation of Infrastructure Projects under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rakesh Mohan has made several recommendations relating to the regulatory and policy framework for infrastructure projects.

The Government is of the view that a strong regulatory framework is necessary to attract private investment in the infrastructure sector. Accordingly, the Government has implmented a number of recommendations of the Expert Group, including, inter-alia, the establishment of independent regulatory authorities such as Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP). In the context of the power sector, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has been established with enabling provisions to facilitate state governments to set up state regulatory commissions.

Privatisation of PSUs

2356. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new radical formula has been evolved for privatising public sector enterprises to achieve the desired disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the formulation is fraught with dangers, giving unfettered powers of control of public undertakings to the bureaucracy and eliminating their accountability to Parliament; and

(d) if not, what checks are contemplated on such powers, so as to ensure accountability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SAINGH BADAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Revival of National Instruments Limited and BOGL

2357. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the revival status of National Instruments Limited and BOGL as per the latest proceedings of BIFR;

(b) when were the last BIFR hearing held in the above cases; and

(c) Government's latest stand as promoter vis-a-vis the above hearings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SAINGH BADAL): (a) to (c) National Instruments Ltd. (NIL): The